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Security Clamp Down in Secret Agency

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Senate passed a bill designed to tighten personnel security procedures of the National Security Agency.

The measure, previously enacted by the House, passed the Senate by a routine voice vote. Without debate it was returned to the House, passed the

to the House for action on a Senate amendment.

Security procedures at the National Security Agency have been a concern in Congress since two employees, Bernon F. Mitchell and William H. Martin, defected to Russia in 1960. They were experts in cryptography, one of the operations said to fall within the NSA jurisdiction.

Defection of Victor Norris Hamilton in 1963, from a post reported to have given him access to a broader variety of U. S. secrets, intensified congressional interest.

The bill, as approved by the Senate, would require that assignments to duty in NSA be "clearly consistent with the national interest." It would prohibit employment there without

a security clearance based on a full field security investigation.

Under the bill, boards of appraisal would be established, with specially trained members, to assist in deciding doubtful cases involving security or "suitability" for employment. In certain cases the Secretary of Defense would have summary dismissal authority, and certain other civil service provisions would also be legally withheld from NSA appointments.

The Senate's amendment would, in addition, limit the authority of the Secretary of Defense to delegate his power for summary dismissals under the bill. Such delegation would be confined to the deputy secretary of defense or the director of the NSA.